The Government of Bangladesh have reiterated their commitment to the safety and security of all communities and have stated categorically that firm action would be taken to protect the minorities and to punish the perpetrators of violence against them. The Government of Bangladesh allocated Taka 40 lakhs for Durga Puja celebrations and Ministers were directed to visit their constituencies to restore confidence amongst the minorities. Recently, the Government of Bangladesh have set up a special committee headed by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to enquire into these attacks.

Harrasment of Minorities in Bangladesh

516. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of harassment of the minorities in Bangladesh;

(b) the number of people who have migrated / shifted to India as a result of such harassment;

(c) whether Government would allow such people to remain in India and help their settlement here;

(d) whether the Bangladesh Government have assured safety of minorities in Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, how far they have implemented such assurance?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 515.]*

Indian killed in WTC Attack

517. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 5000 Indians were working at the World Trade Centre USA which was attaked by the terrorist;

(b) if so, the number of Indians who have been killed in the attacks in US;

(c) whether the US Government have also supplied the list of the Indians killed;

(d) whether Indian had also protested to the US Government on attacks on Sikh community in US; and

(e) if so, the safeguard measures taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) It is estimated that about 2500 Indians (NRIs / PIOs) were working at the World Trade Centre, New York.

(b) 107 persons of Indians (NRIs / PIOs) are missing and presumed dead in the attacks on the World Trade Centre, New York.

(c) The New York city authorities had prepared the list of victims with the help of employers and Consulates of various countries. However, no list of Indians killed in the attacks is available, since most of them are classified as missing.

(d) Prime Minister had raised this issue with the US President. Our Ambassador in Washington as well as the Consul Generals were in close contact with senior political leaders and administrative authorities to take measures to prevent any such attacks.

(e) The local authorities issued appeals on TV channels asking the public to refrain from irresponsible attacks on anybody. Two persons were arrested in New York for creating trouble in areas with concentration of Indian establishments. The Police Departments increased their patrols around places of worship, especially Gurudwaras.

Pakistani Intrusion Across the LoC

518. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a significant Pakistani intrusion across the LoC into Indian territory in Rajasthan region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, as part of its policy of sponsoring cross border terrorism in India, Pakistan frequently attempts to aid infiltration of terrorists across the International Boundary in Rajasthan and the Line of Control in the State of Jammu & Kashmir where a part of the territory of the State continues to be under the forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan.

Our security forces continue to take all necessary measures to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.